



American Physical Therapy Association.

1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
703 684 2782
703 684 7343 fax
www.apta.org

Officers

Ben F Massey, Jr. PT, MA
President

Janet R Bezner, PT, PhD
Vice President

Randy Roesch, PT, MBA
Secretary

Francis J Welk, PT, MED
Treasurer

Stephen M Levine, PT, MSHIA
Speaker of the House

R M Barney Poole, PT, MED
Vice Speaker

Directors

Joanell A Bohmert, PT, MS

James M Dunleavy, PT, MS

Pauline W Flesch, PT, MPS

Karl R Gibson, PT, MS

Connie Hauser, PT

James C Milder, PT

Janet M Peterson, PT, MA

John Wallace, PT, MS, CCS

R Scott Ward, PT, PhD

Chief Executive Officer

Francis J Mallon, Esq

June 2, 2004

The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senate
Senate Hart Office Building – 524
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

On behalf of the 64,000 members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), I commend you for your efforts to promote the full continuum of health care for our nations' seniors and persons with disabilities served by the Medicare program. APTA appreciates the introduction of your legislation, the **Medicare Preventative Services Coverage Act of 2004** and fully supports its enactment by the 108th Congress. Prevention services are an essential part of the health care continuum that need better integration into the Medicare program, and your legislation goes a long way toward achieving that objective.

Physical therapists provide prevention services that forestall or prevent functional decline and the need for more intense care. Through timely and appropriate screening, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention, physical therapists frequently reduce or eliminate the need for more costly forms of care and also may shorten or even eliminate institutional stays. Physical therapists are actively involved in promoting health, wellness and fitness initiatives, including the provision of services and education of patients that stimulate the public to engage in healthy behaviors. An example of physical therapist involvement in prevention services is the use of therapeutic interventions to improve strength, mobility, and balance to reduce falls that often lead to more costly health care and disability under Medicare.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the Medicare program. The addition of appropriate preventative services to the Medicare program will help our nations' seniors and persons with disability lead more healthy and productive lives within our communities. Please feel free to contact Justin Moore on APTA's Government Affairs staff at justinmoore@apta.org or 703/706-3162, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Ben F. Massey, Jr., PT, MA
President

PT 2004:
The Annual Conference
& Exposition of the
American Physical Therapy
Association

June 30-July 3
Chicago, Illinois